

Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-07

INFO OCT-01 TRSE-00 ARA-06 ISO-00 COME-00 STR-01 TAR-01

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DRAFTED BY TREAS:HSHELLEY - EB/OT/STA:ECONSTABLE:JH

APPROVED BY EB/OT/STA:WCLARK, JR.

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P 231851Z JAN 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, AR

SUBJECT: COUNTERVAILING DUTIES: ARGENTINE FOOTWEAR

1. ON JANUARY 17 TREASURY SECRETARY SIMON AND DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY SUCHMAN MET WITH MINISTER OF ECONOMY GOMEZ MORALES. COUNTERVAILING DUTY INVESTIGATION ON NON-RUBBER FOOTWEAR FROM ARGENTINA INCLUDED AMONG ISSUES RAISED BY GOMEZ MORALES.

2. SIMON INDICATED THAT USG WISHES TO BE COOPERATIVE IN THIS MATTER AND HAS BEEN EXTREMELY FLEXIBLE DURING LAST SIX MONTHS. GOMEZ MORALES EXPRESSED GOA INTEREST IN ESTABLISHING RESTRAINTS ON FOOTWEAR EXPORTS TO U.S. AS POSSIBLE SOLUTION TO PROBLEM. SIMON STATED THAT SITUATION WAS FAR BEYOND POINT WHERE VOLUNTARY RESTRAINTS COULD BE USEFUL. HE ADDED THAT CONGRESS WAS UNHAPPY WITH THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE COUNTERVAILING DUTY LAW AND HAD SPECIFICALLY EXCLUDED FOOTWEAR FROM SPECIAL PROVISION NEW TRADE ACT WHICH ALLOWS TREASURY DISCRETION IN CERTAIN

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COUNTERVAILING DUTY CASES. FURTHER, A COURT HEARING ON

ARGENTINE FOOTWEAR CASE HAS BEEN TWICE POSTPONED. THE NEXT HEARING DATE IS FEBRUARY 12 AND SIMON EMPHASIZED THAT SINCE NO FURTHER DELAY IS BELIEVED POSSIBLE, A DECISION MUST BE MADE QUICKLY.

3. SUCHMAN INDICATED THAT FRUITFUL DISCUSSION WITH MEMBERS OF THE MINISTER'S TEAM HAD TAKEN PLACE IN WASHINGTON AND THAT TREASURY WAS THEREFORE PREPARED TO SEND AN OFFICIAL TO BUENOS AIRES TO SEEK EARLY RESOLUTION OF CASE.

4. TREASURY OFFICIAL HERBERT C. SHELLEY TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED TO ARRIVE BUENOS AIRES JANUARY 26. DETAILS FOLLOW.

5. FURTHER REPORT ON SIMON/GOMEZ MORALES MEETING WILL BE SENT WHEN AVAILABLE. KISSINGER

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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